United Nations S/2012/469

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 June 2012

Original: English

Letter dated 18 June 2012 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I welcome the unanimous adoption of resolution 2051 by the Security Council on 12 June 2012, in which the Council reaffirmed the need for the full and timely implementation of the Transition Agreement for a Yemeni-led political transition. Resolution 2051 (2012) sends an important signal to all Yemeni sides to step up efforts to move the transition process forward and demonstrates the strong commitment of the Security Council to continue its support for a peaceful transition.

I take note that in its resolution 2051 (2012), the Security Council "requests the Secretary-General to continue his good offices role, including through the efforts of his Special Adviser, Jamal Benomar", and in this regard "welcomes the political engagement of the United Nations through a small presence in Yemen consisting of a team of experts to support the implementation of the transition process". In the resolution the Council also "requests the Secretary-General to continue to coordinate assistance from the international community in support of the National Dialogue and transition".

Since the uprisings in Yemen broke out in early 2011, I have been actively engaged through my good offices in helping to find a peaceful solution. Within this framework, my Special Adviser, Jamal Benomar, has continuously engaged with all sides through 12 extensive missions thus far. In November, during his sixth mission, he facilitated face-to-face negotiations between the Government and opposition at their request. This mediation effort resulted in the Transition Agreement signed in Riyadh on 23 November 2011. The Special Adviser has since remained actively engaged with all Yemeni sides in facilitating and supporting its effective implementation.

Since November, there has been progress in the implementation of the Agreement. A Government of National Unity led by Prime Minister Mohamed Basendwa was formed in December 2011. The election of President Hadi on 21 February secured the peaceful transfer of power and marked the successful completion of the first phase of Yemen's transition. The start of security sector reform and the launch on 6 May of preparations for the National Dialogue Conference indicate that the Yemeni sides are staying on course in implementing the Agreement. However, the country's peace remains fragile and the transition faces formidable challenges.

The Security Council recognized these challenges in resolution 2051 (2012). The convening of an all-inclusive National Dialogue in particular will be a crucial

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forum for shaping Yemen's future and for creating a positive political dynamic towards greater stability and security. Helping to ensure the success of this process therefore is one of my top priorities. This will require stepped-up political facilitation efforts to help support the next steps in transition, including the National Dialogue, the constitutional review and new elections in early 2014.

To fully meet the expectations of resolutions 2014 (2011), 2051 (2012) and the Transition Agreement, in which the Yemeni sides requested . to, inter alia, "provide continuous assistance, in cooperation with other agencies, for the implementation of this Agreement", I intend to establish a small Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen for an initial period of 12 months to fulfil the following main functions:

(a) Exercise my good offices with a view to facilitating Yemen's transition and assisting in the implementation of the Agreement;

(b) Lead United Nations support to the National Dialogue Conference and coordinate international assistance to the Conference;

(c) Provide support to other transition steps, including the constitutional review, and new general elections in early 2014;

(d) Work closely with the members of the Security Council, the Gulf Cooperation Council and other international partners;

(e) Support the Secretary-General's ongoing reporting obligations to the Security Council in the context of resolutions 2014 (2011) and 2051 (2012).

The Office will be headed by my Special Adviser on Yemen at the level of Assistant Secretary-General to exercise my good offices role, including through regular and frequent visits to Yemen, and engage closely with all Yemeni sides. The Special Adviser will be supported both at Headquarters and on the ground in Yemen by a small team of five Professional staff. An advance team of two Professional staff that was deployed to Sana'a in May will be incorporated into this Office. In fulfilling its tasks, the Office will work closely with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the United Nations country team in Yemen.

I should be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon